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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/866,675	05/30/2001	Masakazu Nakajo	Q63795	5117

7590

08/18/2003

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EXAMINER

YUN, JURIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2882

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/866,675

Applicant(s)

NAKAJO, MASAKAZU

Examin r

Jurie Yun

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because in line 6, "metal frames" should be "metal plates" in order to be consistent with the "metal plates" referred to in lines 2-3. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 15, "metal frames" should be "metal plates". Appropriate correction is required.
3. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2, "metal frames" should be "metal plates". Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2, "metal frames" should be "metal plates". Appropriate correction is required.
5. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: in lines 12-13, "metal frames" should be "metal plates". Appropriate correction is required.
6. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 13 (last line), it is assumed that "said lid" should be "said flat plate". Appropriate correction is required.
7. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 3, "metal frames" should be "metal plates". Appropriate correction is required.
8. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2, "metal frames" should be "metal plates". Appropriate correction is required.
9. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2, "metal frames" should be "metal plates". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torii (USPN 4,889,233) in view of Kaneko et al. (USPN 4,841,558).

12. With respect to claim 9, Torii discloses a radiation cassette comprising: a casing (24) for storing a radiation image recording medium (S) therein; and a light shielding plate (26) for holding the radiation image recording medium in a light-shielded condition, said light shielding plate having a lid (30) openably and closably mounted on at least a portion of said casing; said casing comprising: a flat plate for being irradiated with a radiation from an external source. Torii does not disclose the flat plate is a three-layer structure including two carbon layers providing opposite surfaces and an insulating layer interposed between said carbon layers, said insulating layer having an insulating strength of at least 5 kV. Kaneko et al. disclose (column 3, lines 57+) a flat plate with a three-layer structure including two carbon layers (2 and 2') providing opposite surfaces and an insulating layer (1) interposed between said carbon layers, said insulating layer having an insulating strength of at least 5 kV. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Torii flat plate to have a three-layer structure including two carbon layers providing opposite surfaces and an insulating layer interposed between said carbon layers, said insulating layer having

an insulating strength of at least 5 kV, as taught by Kaneko et al., to achieve a high impact resistance and light weight cassette (column 1, lines 54-63).

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

14. Claims 1-8 and 11-15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action.

15. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to disclose a radiation cassette comprising a plurality of metal plates disposed on edges of inner surfaces of ends of the flat plate and a plurality of resin frames integrally molded on the ends of the flat plate in embedding relation to the metal plates, as claimed in claim 1. Prior art also fails to disclose a method of manufacturing a radiation cassette including placing metal plates on edges of inner surfaces of ends of a flat plate for being irradiated with a radiation from an external source and integrally molding a plurality of resin frames on the ends of the flat plate in embedding relation to the metal plates, thus producing the flat plate, as claimed in claim 11.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Okamoto et al. (USPN 5,101,423), Stumpf et al. (USPN 5,475,230), Wendlandt et al. (USPN 5,861,631), and Budinski et al. (USPN 5,912,944) disclose X-ray cassettes.

Art Unit: 2882

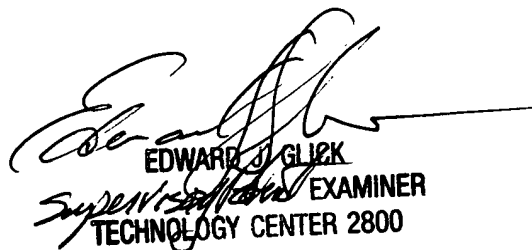
17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jurie Yun whose telephone number is 703 308-3535.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 703 308-4858. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 308-7722 for regular communications and 703 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0956.

Jurie Yun
August 6, 2003


EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISOR EXAMINER
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